

Agency 056

**Office of Public Defense****Recommendation Summary**

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
<b>2003-05 Expenditure Authority</b>	5.5	1,550	12,799	14,349
<b>Total Maintenance Level</b>	5.5	1,768	12,831	14,599
Difference		218	32	250
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.0%	14.1%	0.3%	1.7%
<b>Performance Changes</b>				
Public Defender Training Grants #			600	600
Trial Level Indigent Defense	2.5		1,260	1,260
Equalization of Attorney Pay			322	322
Attorney Vendor Rate Increase			298	298
Dependency and Termination Program#	4.0	1,550	6,000	7,550
Rate Change for Court Reporter			238	238
<b>Subtotal</b>	6.5	1,550	8,718	10,268
<b>Total Proposed Budget</b>	12.0	3,318	21,549	24,867
Difference	6.5	1,768	8,750	10,518
Percent Change from Current Biennium	118.2%	114.1%	68.4%	73.3%
<b>Total Proposed Budget by Activity</b>				
Public Defense	12.0	3,318	21,549	24,867
<b>Total Proposed Budget</b>	12.0	3,318	21,549	24,867

**PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS****Public Defender Training Grants #**

Contingent on passage of Senate Bill 5454, funds are provided for pass through to the Public Defender Association for statewide training. (Public Safety and Education Account-State)

**Trial Level Indigent Defense**

Indigent defendants have a fundamental, constitutional right to effective representation by an attorney. Funding is provided to increase the Office of Public Defense's budget to improve indigent defense representation in the trial courts and provide statewide training programs for public defenders. (Public Safety and Education Account-State)

**Equalization of Attorney Pay**

An increase in the Office of Public Defense's budget is provided to equalize pay rates for all attorneys performing indigent appellate services. (Public Safety and Education Account-State)

**Attorney Vendor Rate Increase**

A vendor rate increase is provided to help offset the cost of business increases for attorneys who perform constitutionally required services for indigent appellate cases. (Public Safety and Education Account-State)

**Dependency and Termination Program#**

Funds are provided to expand the Office of Public Defense's evidence-based parents' representation program. This program will provide indigent parents with effective legal advocacy in dependency and termination cases, consistent with constitutional requirements. Program expansion shall include, but not be limited to, Grays Harbor County. \$6,000,000 Public Safety and Education Account Appropriation is provided contingent upon passage of SSB 5454 - Court Operations. If the bill does not pass This amount shall lapse. (General Fund-State, Public Safety and Education Account-State)

**Rate Change for Court Reporter**

Court reporters prepare the verbatim reports of proceedings for indigent appellate cases and are compensated on a per page rate set by the Washington Supreme Court. A vendor rate increase is provided to offset cost-of-living increases for court reporters that perform these services. (Public Safety and Education Account-State)

**ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS**

**Public Defense**

The Office of Public Defense's duties are to implement the constitutional guarantee of counsel and to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of indigent appellate services.